

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 537**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Arambula**

February 25, 2009

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An act to add Section 412 to the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to agriculture.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 537, as introduced, Arambula. Agriculture: direct marketing: farmers' markets.

Existing law authorizes the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to adopt regulations to encourage the direct sale by farmers to the public of all types of California agricultural products. Existing law authorizes farmers to sell the agricultural products they produce directly to the public at certified farmers' markets, field retail stands, and farm stands, as provided.

This bill would require the secretary to increase access to healthy food for all Californians by allowing redemption of all nutrition program forms of payment at farmers' markets, and to invest in sustainable models of distribution for California-grown products to retail markets in low-income neighborhoods.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 412 is added to the Food and Agricultural
- 2 Code, to read:

1       412. The secretary shall increase access to healthy food for all  
2 Californians by allowing redemption of all nutrition program forms  
3 of payment at farmers' markets, and invest in sustainable models  
4 of distribution for California-grown products to retail markets in  
5 low-income neighborhoods.

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